

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

January 18, 2011

PREVENTION OF CAMPUS VIOLENCE

On Thursday, a Cal State Northridge student was charged with possession of explosive materials and a firearm allegedly found in his dorm room. The student who allegedly threatened staff and students is being held on \$1 million bail.

Recent instances of campus violence emphasize the need to develop programs and strategies designed to eliminate the school violence scenarios that our country has experienced in the past decade. The lessons learned from the shootings at Columbine, Virginia Tech, and Northern Illinois University must not be forgotten. Prevention and early intervention programs can prevent such tragedies from happening in Los Angeles County.

In May, 2008 the County of Los Angeles - Department of Mental Health Emergency Outreach Bureau partnered with the Los Angeles Police Department to establish a School Threat Assessment Response Team (START) to address the increasing number of students on a pathway to violence. In July 2009 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding allowed for a countywide expansion of this resource.

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

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KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

START is the first comprehensive program in the country dedicated to the prevention of campus violence.

START is a collaborative effort that brings together law enforcement, mental health, and educational institutions with the goal of preventing campus or targeted school violence. Since its inception START has responded to approximately 250 incidents of potential school violence in elementary, middle, high school, and college campuses. Timely intervention has likely prevented a number of school tragedies. The continued presence of conditions that contribute to the frequency and severity of school-based threats make the need for an ongoing and expanded comprehensive prevention and intervention program readily apparent.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of the Department of Mental Health and request the Sheriff of Los Angeles County to report back to the Board within 60 days on a plan for enhanced violence prevention services to public and private educational institutions throughout Los Angeles County. This plan should also address strategies for identifying and accessing additional school violence prevention funding for collaborative programs involving mental health, law enforcement and educational institutions.

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